



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

September 17, 2013

Kyiv

STATEMENT on the EU-UKRAINE Association Agreement

Ukraine is at a crossroad on the eve of the historical moment, which will define its future. The Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU may be signed in Vilnius at the Eastern Partnership Summit in November this year and it will create the foundation for sustainable democracy and economic development of Ukraine for many years to come.

Recognizing the importance of the historical moment we urge all involved parties to pass whole necessary way for signing, ratification and establishment of effective institutions to ensure its quality implementation. As of today signature of the agreement in Vilnius is far from guaranteed and very little time is left.

We see no prospect of success in Vilnius if several basic steps to overcome selective justice reform legislation on elections and on prosecution are not made in the coming weeks. We call on the President of Ukraine, the Government of Ukraine and the Parliament of Ukraine to adopt the decision which could testify the most complete understanding of the criteria formulated by the European Union on December 10, 2012.

At the same time we call on the EU institutions, member-states' governments to demonstrate strategic wisdom, understanding that the signed Association Agreement will provide EU more positive leverage even with the present shortage of reforms in Ukraine. And it will provide Ukrainian society much greater push for reforms and an occasion for the efforts mobilization than delay of agreement signing till better times.

As representatives of civil society organizations united in the Ukrainian national platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum are ready to work on the implementation of the Agreement and to promote common values it is based on.